

March 20, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Ali King, Our Children Oregon

SUBJECT: Support for Families and Children in the State Budget

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith,
and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child by leveraging data and research. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families.

Oregon's children and families are the top priorities of the 2025 Children's Agenda and we urge you to prioritize investments that maximize opportunities for them, especially during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how investing in Oregon's children and families has immediate and long-term economic benefits for individual communities and the state as a whole.

When investments in children and families are not made, the state bears the burden both directly and indirectly, as the consequences extend beyond the

immediate health and wellbeing of the children and impact social, economic, and healthcare systems statewide.

As you build the state budget, we call on you to reject any new Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy. We also urge you to prepare for any coming economic downturn or federal funding reductions by doing what we know works to keep families stable: strategically investing in our communities and giving Oregonians more opportunities to thrive.

We appreciate the work you do to support Oregon's children and families and we strongly urge you to prioritize a state budget which protects them.

Sincerely,

Ali King

Ali King

Policy and Advocacy Director

Our Children Oregon

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)